

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER  
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20307-5001

Nursing Policy

23 July 2005

**Scope of Patient Care and Service**

- 1. UNIT TITLE:** Ward 75 Inpatient General Medicine Unit
- 2. DESCRIPTION:** 30 Bed Unit with average daily census of 28 patients.
- 3. PATIENT POPULATION SERVED:** Any early adulthood to geriatric patients who are eligible for care as designated by the Defense Eligibility and Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS) and the Patient Administration Department. Patients require acute care and monitoring not located in the critical care areas (i.e. vital signs, intravenous therapy, medication administration, dressing changes)
- 4. CONDITIONS AND DIAGNOSES TREATED:** Patients generally have multiple diagnoses. These include stable cardiac and peripheral vascular disorders, stable gastrointestinal bleeding or abnormalities, respiratory or renal failure, stable neurological abnormalities, cancer with metastasis, and stable endocrine abnormalities
  - a. High Volume:
    - 1) Cardiac diagnoses excluding myocardial infarctions
    - 2) Cancer with metastasis
    - 3) Peripheral vascular diseases such as cellulitis, DVT
    - 4) Respiratory disorders such as pneumonia, COPD
    - 5) Neurological disorders such as CVA
    - 6) Acute and chronic renal failure
    - 7) Diabetes mellitus
  - b. High Risk:
    - 1) Patients requiring restraint application
    - 2) Infectious diseases
    - 3) Patients requiring respiratory isolation
    - 4) Patients requiring isolation for contact, MRSA, VRE
    - 5) Patients requiring hemodialysis
  - c. Low Volume: Patients receiving I131 radioiodine therapy
  - d. Problem Prone: Neurological disorders such as Alzheimer and Dementia

e. High Cost:

- 1) Patients requiring special procedures such as paracentesis or thoracentesis
- 2) Gastrointestinal complications
- 3) Tracheostomies
- 4) Long-term patients
- 5) Pancreatitis
- 6) Neurological disorders

f. Excluded Patients/Services:

- 1) Pediatrics or children ages 0-17
- 2) Patients requiring critical care monitoring
- 3) Patients receiving intravenous chemotherapy

**5. STANDARDS OR GUIDELINES FOR PRACTICE:**

- a. AR 570-4, Manpower Management, 15 May 2000.
- b. FM 8-501, The Workload Management System for Nursing, Nov 1990.
- c. WRAMC Regulations
- d. WRAMC Nursing Policies
- e. Unit level standard operating procedures
- f. American Nurses Association, Scope and Standards of Practice, 2004.
- g. Springhouse, Nursing Procedures, Lippincott, 2004. To accompany software program: Procedures, Version 2.2, Lippincott, 2004

**6. TREATMENTS AND ACTIVITIES PERFORMED:** All nursing activities are performed in accordance with the Scope of Practice and Competency Based Orientation. Common clinical activities include: admission assessments, patient and family teaching, venipunctures, peripheral intravenous therapy, fingerstick blood glucose monitoring, blood or blood product transfusions, medication administration, urinary catheterization, nasogastric tube insertion, tube feedings, oral or nasogastric suctioning, dressing and wound care, respiratory treatments, oxygen therapy, vital signs monitoring, pain management, and ongoing assessments and documentation of nursing and medical intervention.

**7. PERSONNEL PROVIDING CARE:**

a. Nursing:

- 1) Registered nurses
- 2) Licensed practical nurses
- 3) Nursing Assistants
- 4) Medical Records Technicians

## b. Other Personnel:

- 1) Physicians
- 2) Physical Therapists
- 3) Occupational Therapist
- 4) Social Workers
- 5) Pharmacists
- 6) Dietitians
- 7) Respiratory Therapy
- 8) Radiology Technicians
- 9) Laboratory Technicians
- 10) Chaplain

## c. Unit core staffing plan

Ward 75	ASAM Authorizations TDA 0202		Weekday Staffing Matrix (excluding Head Nurse and Wardmaster)			Weekend Staffing Matrix (excluding Head Nurse and Wardmaster)		
Staffing	Military	Civilian	Day	Evening	Night	Day	Evening g	Night
RN	24	10	5	5	4	5	5	4
LPN	15	7	3	3	3	3	3	3
NA	13	8	4	4	3	4	4	3
MRT	0	5	2	2	1			

## 8. HOURS OF SERVICE: 24 hours per day